

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-02 SSO-00 PA-02
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O P 030132Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
OAU COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STATE 099538

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - ZAIRE - MAY 2, 1977

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS CONCERNING ZAIRE FROM DEPARTMENT
BRIEFING MAY 2.

2. Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION, DO YOU HAVE ANY
REACTION TO THE REPORT THAT EGYPT IS PREPARING TO SEND
AIRPLANES TO ZAIRE?

A. FIRST, INsofar AS HAVING A READ-OUT ON HOW, WHEN,
WHERE AND ANYTHING OF THAT SORT, I DON'T HAVE THAT. HIS
DECISION, WHICH WE HAVE SEEN, OBVIOUSLY UNDERSCORES A
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CONCERN THAT HE HAS VOICED PUBLICLY ABOUT THE SITUATION
IN CENTRAL AFRICA. AND, AS WE'VE SAID BEFORE, OUR POSITION
IS THAT CONFLICTS AND DISPUTES SUCH AS THAT IN ZAIRE SHOULD
PROPERLY BE RESOLVED BY AFRICAN STATES THEMSELVES. BUT
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING AS FAR AS DETAILS ON HIS
DECISION OR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IT.

3. Q. BUT, GENERALLY, YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST ADMINISTRATION TO SAY THAT THEY SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES.

THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING IS NOT SOLVED BY INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN STATES INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT. WE SUPPORT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND DON'T LIKE INTRUSIONS. I THOUGHT WHEN WE SPEAK ABOUT AN AFRICAN SOLUTION WE MEAN, YOU KNOW, SORT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY -- OR AT LEAST SOME GROUPING OF COUNTRIES -- SO HOW COULD YOU APPROVE OR EVEN DRAG OUT THAT QUOTE NOW IN REFERENCE TO EGYPT'S INVOLVEMENT NOW IN A ZAIRE--WELL, WHAT WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE IS A WAR -- WHAT MIGHT VERY WELL BE SOME SORT OF A SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT OR INTERNAL MOVEMENT?

A. YES. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, TAKEN THE CONSISTENT POSITION, AS YOU KNOW, THAT THIS IS AN INVASION. IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE TERRITORY OF ZAIRE. AND AS WE HAVE BEEN ASKED IN REGARD TO OTHER ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, WE CONSIDER THAT TO BE A LEGITIMATE FUNCTION OF ZAIRE -- TO ASK FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE TO DEFEND ITS BORDERS AND ITS TERRITORY AND ITS INTEGRITY. AND THE GENERAL STATEMENT COVERS THE SPECIFIC INSTANCE AS WELL.

4. Q. SO, IN OTHER WORDS, YOU APPROVE, OR AT LEAST -- "APPROVE" MAY BE TOO STRONG A WORD, BUT YOU THINK IT'S --WELL, YOU APPROVE-- YOU APPROVE OF EGYPT'S ASSISTANCE -- TO ANSWERING ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

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A. NO. I THINK I'M GOING TO GO EXACTLY WHERE I AM -- WHICH IS WHAT I'VE SAID BEFORE: ZAIRE HAS A RIGHT TO ASK FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE, AND EGYPT HAS A RIGHT TO GRANT IT.

5. Q. THAT'S NOT AN AFRICAN SOLUTION, IS IT?

A. WELL, INsofar AS THERE ARE NATIONS THAT ARE ON THE CONTINENT WHICH ARE ASSISTING IN THIS MATTER, YES, OF COURSE IT IS.

6. Q. WELL, I MEAN, FOR GOD SAKES, ANGOLA JUMPED IN -- TROOPS FROM ANGOLA JUMPED INTO THIS THING AND THAT'S WHAT STARTED THE WHOLE THING. AND THAT WAS AN AFRICAN SOLUTION TOO. IT WAS ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY.

A. BUT WAIT. WHEN TROOPS GO ACROSS BORDERS -- WITHOUT CONCEDING ANYTHING YOU JUST SAID ABOUT WHAT ANGOLAN TROOPS DID OR DIDN'T DO -- WHEN TROOPS GO ACROSS THE

BORDERS, AT THAT POINT UNDER A NUMBER OF THINGS STARTING WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COMING DOWN TO THE NOTIONS OF OAU ITSELF, THEN THE NATION HAS A RIGHT TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE TO DEFEND ITSELF.

I'M NOT NOW TALKING ABOUT THE NUMBER OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES YOU COULD RAISE WITH ME.

7. Q. WELL, LIKE IDI AMIN FOLLOWING THROUGH ON HIS OFFER.

A. I DON'T, INCIDENTALLY, HAVE ANYTHING ON IDI AMIN.

8. Q. YOU SAID ONE OF HIS PROBLEMS WAS THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH AIRPLANES AND THAT HE WAS ASKING, THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES, TO SUPPLY HIM WITH F-5ES.

A. YES.

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9. Q. HAVE WE BEEN APPROACHED, EITHER BY EGYPT OR BY ANYBODY ELSE, TO REINFORCE WHAT HE HAS SAID IS A DEPLETED AIR FORCE FOR THIS OPERATION OR ANY OTHER?

A. NOW, WAIT A MINUTE. IN THE FIRST PLACE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HE SENDING PILOTS--IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING-- BUT I DON'T KNOW, YOU KNOW, EXACTLY WHAT ALL IS INVOLVED. SECONDLY, YOU'RE ASKING ME SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT?

10. Q. HAVE WE BEEN ASKED TO SUPPLY ANY NEW AID TO EGYPT?

A. I NO LONGER REMEMBER WHAT HE MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE MENTIONED WHEN HE TALKED TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN TERMS OF SPECIFICS. BUT IF YOU ASK ME ABOUT PLANES, I DON'T KNOW. I CAN FIND OUT.

11. Q. COULD YOU FIND OUT IF ANY REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE BY EGYPT TO THE UNITED STATES REGARDING A TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT? I SUPPOSE THIS WOULD BE A TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT.

A. YES. I THINK PROBABLY THE BETTER PLACE TO GET THE ANSWER TO THIS IS GOING TO BE THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT I WILL SEE. MAYBE I CAN GET IT.
VANCE

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